



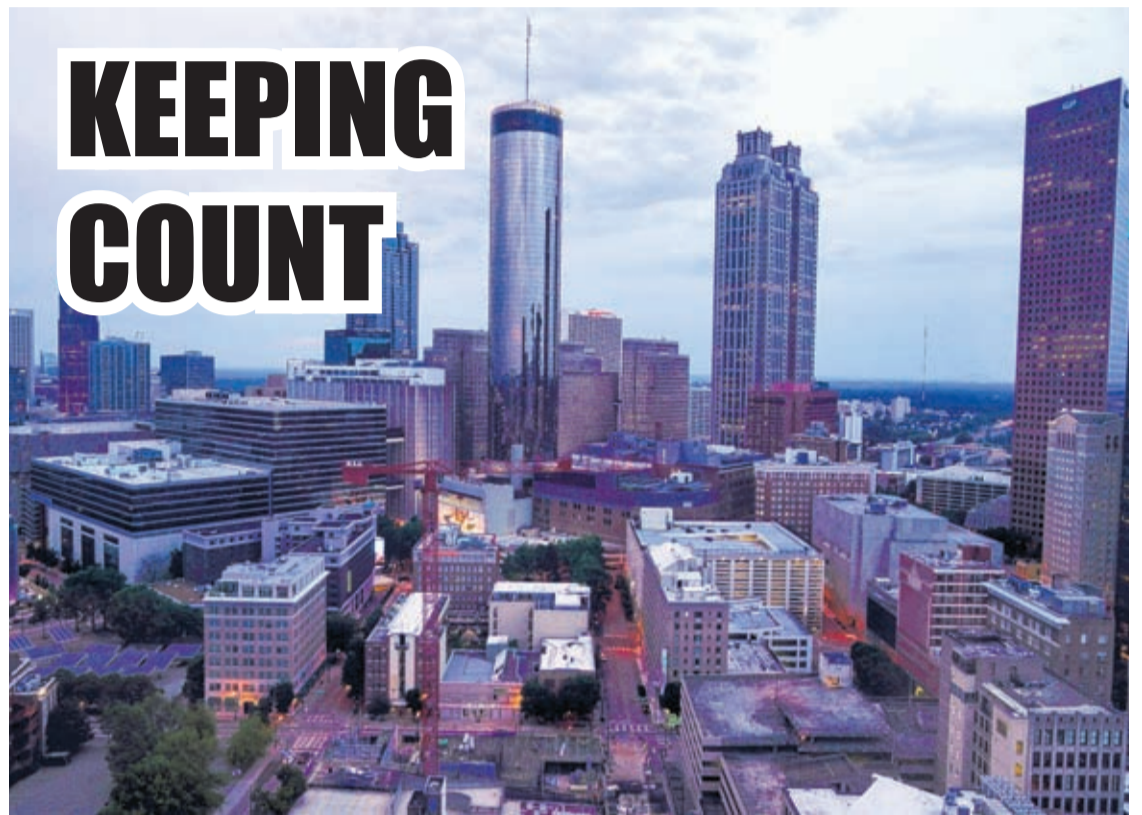
Census shows U.S. is diversifying, white population shrinking

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

The U.S. became more diverse and more urban over the past decade, and the white population dropped for the first time on record, the Census Bureau said Thursday as it released a trove of demographic data that will be used to redraw the nation's political maps. The new figures offered the most detailed portrait yet of how the country has changed since 2010, and they are sure to set off an intense partisan battle over representation at a time of deep national division and fights over voting rights. The numbers could help determine control of the House in the 2022 elections and provide an electoral edge for years to come. The data will also shape how \$1.5 trillion in annual federal spending is distributed.

The figures show continued migration to the South and West at the expense of counties in the Midwest and Northeast. The share of the white population fell from 63.7% in 2010 to 57.8% in 2020, the lowest on record, though white people continue to be the most prevalent racial or ethnic group. However, that changed in California, where Hispanics became the largest racial or ethnic group, growing to 39.4% from 37.6% over the decade, while the share of white people dropped from 40.1% to 34.7%.

Continued on next page



Clouds roll into downtown Atlanta on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021, in Atlanta.

Associated Press



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1 Main dish



1 Dessert

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Continued from Front

"The U.S. population is much more multiracial and much more racially and ethnically diverse than what we have measured in the past," said Nicholas Jones, a Census Bureau official.

The data comes from compiling forms filled out last year by tens of millions of Americans, with the help of census takers and government statisticians to fill in the blanks when forms were not turned in or questions were left unanswered. The numbers reflect countless decisions made over the past 10 years by individuals to have children, move to another part of the country or to come to the U.S. from elsewhere.

The release offers states the first chance to redraw their political districts in a process that is expected to be particularly brutish since control over Congress and statehouses is at stake. It also provides the first opportunity to see, on a limited basis, how well the Census Bureau fulfilled its goal of counting every U.S. resident during what many consider the most difficult once-a-decade census in recent memory.

"The data we are releasing today meet our high quality data standards," acting Census Bureau Director Ron Jarmin said.

Even before it began, the headcount was challenged by attempted po-



Rows of homes, are shown in suburban Salt Lake City, on April 13, 2019.

Associated Press

litical interference from the Trump administration's failed efforts to add a citizenship question to the census form, a move that critics feared would have a chilling effect on immigrant or Hispanic participation. The effort was stopped by the Supreme Court.

The information was originally supposed to be released by the end of March, but that deadline was pushed back because of delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The start of the 2020 census for most U.S. residents coincided with the spread of the virus last year, forcing the Census Bureau to delay operations and extend the count's schedule.

Because census data is tied to where people were on April 1, 2020, the numbers will not reflect the loss of nearly 620,000 people in the U.S. who died from COVID-19. On top of the pandemic, census takers in the West contended with wildfires, and those in Louisiana faced repeated hurricanes. Then, there were court battles over the Trump administration's effort to end the count early that repeatedly changed the plan for concluding field operations.

Back in April, the Census Bureau released state population totals from the 2020 census showing how many congressional seats each state gets.

"Certainly, the pandemic played a big role, but we can't forget the political interference we saw," said Terry Ao Minnis, an official with Asian Americans Advancing Justice, an advocacy group. "I think we know that all has played a role in whether people participated or not, whether it was from fear created about participating or sheer confusion about, 'Who is at my door? ... Should I not open my door because of COVID? Should I not open my door because of the government?'"

Communities of color have been undercounted in past censuses. The Census Bureau likely will not know how good a job it did until

next year, when it releases a survey showing undercounts and overcounts. But Thursday's release allows researchers to do an initial quality check, and it could lead to lawsuits alleging that the numbers are faulty. The Census Bureau has a program that allows elected officials to challenge the data, but it does not apply to apportionment or redistricting.

"This is our first opportunity to see if there's any indication of an unprecedented undercount," said Thomas Saenz, president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). "There always is an undercount. This census will be no different, but our concern is to make sure this isn't hugely out of proportion to undercounts we have seen in prior censuses." For the first time, the numbers will not be entirely accurate at the smallest geographic levels due to a new privacy method used by the Census Bureau. The method inserts controlled errors into the data at small geographic levels, such as neighborhood blocks, in order to protect people's identities in an era of Big Data.

Jarmin has warned that the process may produce weird results, such as blocks showing children living with no adults or housing units not matching the number of people living there. □

Supreme Court justice won't block college vaccine mandate



In this April 23, 2021, file photo Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett stands during a group photo at the Supreme Court in Washington.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett on Thursday refused to block a plan by

Indiana University to require students and employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Barrett's action came in response to an emergency request from eight students, and it marked the first time the high court has weighed in on a vaccine mandate. Some corporations, states and cities have adopted vaccine requirements for workers or even to dine indoors, and others are considering doing so.

The students said in court papers that they have "a constitutional right to bodily integrity, autonomy, and of medical treatment choice in the context of a vaccination mandate." They wanted the high court to issue an order barring the university from enforcing the mandate. Seven of the

students qualify for a religious exemption.

College officials across the country have struggled with whether to require vaccinations, with some schools mandating them and others questioning whether they have legal authority to do so. Similar lawsuits against student vaccine requirements have been filed in other states.

The court's newest justice rejected the plea without even asking the university for a response or getting her colleagues to weigh in. Justices often act on their own in such situations when the legal question isn't particularly close. Barrett handles emergency mat-

ters from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, which includes Indiana.

A three-judge federal appeals court panel, including two judges appointed by former President Donald Trump, was one of two lower courts to side with Indiana University and allow it to require the vaccinations, even as legal proceedings continue. The plan announced in May requires roughly 90,000 students and 40,000 employees on seven campuses to receive COVID-19 vaccinations for the fall semester.

Students who don't comply will have their registration canceled and workers who don't will lose their jobs. □

U.S. sends 3K troops to Kabul to evacuate some embassy staff

By **ROBERT BURNS, MATTHEW LEE and ELLEN KNICKMEYER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With security rapidly deteriorating in Afghanistan, the United States is sending in an additional 3,000 troops to help evacuate some personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, officials said Thursday.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said one Army and two Marine infantry battalions will enter Afghanistan within the next two days to assist at the Kabul airport with the partial embassy evacuation.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said diplomatic work will continue at the Kabul embassy.

"Our first responsibility has always been protecting the safety and the security of our citizens serving in Afghanistan, and around the world," Price said at a State Department briefing, calling the the speed of the Taliban advance and resulting instability "of grave concern."

Price insisted Thursday's move shouldn't be seen as encouraging an already emboldened Taliban and said, "We are committed



Pentagon spokesman John Kirby speaks during a briefing at the Pentagon in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

to supporting Afghanistan and its people. That commitment remains."

But the move suggests a lack of confidence by the Biden administration in the Afghan government's ability to provide sufficient diplomatic security in Kabul as a series of provincial capitals have fallen to a Taliban offensive this week.

Kirby said an additional 1,000 members of an Army-

Air Force task force were going to the Gulf country of Qatar to help with visa processing for the ongoing evacuation of former translators and other Afghans who had worked with Americans in Afghanistan. And an Army brigade combat team of up to 4,000 troops from North Carolina's Fort Bragg was going to Kuwait to be on standby in case more troops were

needed for the embassy mission.

Kirby stressed the new deployments were a temporary mission focused only on the embassy drawdown and helping the State Department accelerate the visa processing for Afghan translators and others, not a move to get involved in the war again.

The U.S. has withdrawn most of its troops and for-

mally ends its role in the war on Aug. 31. The Pentagon had kept about 650 troops in Afghanistan to support U.S. diplomatic security, including at the airport.

Afghan government forces are collapsing even faster than U.S. military leaders thought possible just a few months ago when President Joe Biden ordered a full withdrawal.

The Taliban, who ruled the country from 1996 until U.S. forces invaded after the 9/11 attacks, captured three more provincial capitals Wednesday and two on Thursday, the 10th and 11th the insurgents have taken in a weeklong sweep that has given them effective control of about two-thirds of the country. The insurgents have no air force and are outnumbered by U.S.-trained Afghan defense forces, but they have captured territory, including the country's third-largest city, Herat, with stunning speed.

In a new warning to Americans in Afghanistan, the second it has issued since Saturday, the U.S. Embassy in Kabul on Thursday again urged U.S. citizens to leave immediately. □

Belarus denies entry to U.S. ambassador, cuts US Embassy staff

By **YURAS KARMANAU**
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Belarus on Wednesday rescinded its permission for the U.S. ambassador's appointment and told the U.S. to cut its embassy staff in retaliation for Washington's sanctions.

President Joe Biden's administration slapped Belarus with new sanctions Monday, the anniversary of last year's election in Belarus that was denounced by the opposition as rigged. Authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko responded to protests against his re-election to a sixth term with a sweeping crackdown that saw more than 35,000 people arrested and thousands beaten by police.

The new U.S. sanctions target Belarus' giant potash

producer that has been a top revenue earner for the country, the Belarusian National Olympic Committee and 15 private companies with ties to Belarusian authorities.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Anatoly Glaz on Wednesday denounced the U.S. action as "blatant and openly hostile" and announced the decision to rescind an earlier agreement for the appointment of Julie Fisher as the U.S. ambassador to the country.

He said Belarus also told the U.S. to cut its embassy staff in Minsk to five diplomats until Sept. 1.

"In view of Washington's actions to halt cooperation in all spheres and strangle our country economically we see no reason in the presence of a significant num-

ber of diplomats at the U.S. diplomatic mission," Glaz said in a statement.

While Belarus agreed to Fisher's appointment in December as the first U.S. ambassador to Belarus since 2008, it never issued her an entry visa. Fisher has remained in neighboring Lithuania where she maintains contacts with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the main opposition challenger in the Aug. 9, 2020, election who was forced to leave Belarus under pressure from authorities.

Commenting on Belarus' moves, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said that "Belarussian authorities are responsible for the deterioration in U.S.-Belarus relations through relentless repression against their citizens," noting they have targeted civic groups,



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko gestures while speaking during an annual press conference in Minsk, Belarus, Monday, Aug. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

media, athletes, students, legal professions and others.

"The United States government, Ambassador Fisher, personnel at our embassy in Minsk will continue to support the democratic aspirations of the people

of Belarus," Price said. "U.S. diplomats will continue to engage with Belarusians, including leaders of the pro-democracy movement, media professionals, students and other elements of civil society wherever they are." □

States that had a grip on COVID now seeing a crush of cases

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLER and SARA CLINE
Associated Press

The COVID-19 surge that is sending hospitalizations to all-time highs in parts of the South is also clobbering states like Hawaii and Oregon that were once seen as pandemic success stories.

After months in which they kept cases and hospitalizations at manageable levels, they are watching progress slip away as record numbers of patients overwhelm bone-tired health care workers.

Oregon like Florida, Arkansas and Louisiana has more people in the hospital with COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. Hawaii is about to reach that mark, too.

"It's heartbreaking. People are exhausted. You can see it in their eyes," said Dr. Jason Kuhl, chief medical officer at Oregon's Providence Medford Medical Center, where patients are left on gurneys in hallways, their monitoring machines beeping away.

In other developments, the Food and Drug Administration is expected to authorize COVID-19 booster shots for certain people with weakened immune systems, such as cancer patients and organ transplant recipients, to give them an



In this May 21, 2021 file photo, a sign reminds customers to wear their masks at a bakery in Lake Oswego, Ore. In this May 21, 2021 file photo, a sign reminds customers to wear their masks at a bakery in Lake Oswego, Ore.

extra dose of protection.

The U.S. is seeing the virus storming back, driven by a combination of the highly contagious delta variant and lagging vaccination rates, especially in the South and other rural and conservative parts of the country.

New cases nationwide are averaging about 123,000 per day, a level last seen in early February, and deaths are running at over 500 a day, turning the clock back to May.

For the most part during the pandemic, Hawaii enjoyed one of the lowest infection and death rates in the nation. In recent days, though, it reported record highs of more than 600 new virus cases daily.

On its worst day in 2020, Hawaii had 291 patients hospitalized with the coronavirus. Officials expect to hit 300 by the end of this week. Demand for COVID-19 shots in the state early on seemed promising, but it took three weeks much

longer than expected to get from 50% to 60% of the eligible population fully vaccinated. Vaccinations have since plateaued. Nationally, the rate is about 59%.

The biggest hospital on Hawaii's Big Island is feeling the pressure. Out of 128 acute beds, 116 were taken Wednesday at Hilo Medical Center, and the hospital's 11 intensive care unit beds are almost always full these days, spokeswoman Elena Cabatu said.

"If someone out there has a heart attack or a sepsis or gets into a bad accident that requires intensive care, we will have to hold that person in the emergency department," Cabatu said. "I'm surprised we landed here," she lamented. "The hope during the mass vaccination clinics was just so high."

Hilton Raethel, president and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, disputed any notion that the rebound in tourism in Hawaii is largely to blame.

"The tourists have been a source for infection, but they've never been the predominant source of infection," Raethel said. "There's a lot more concern about people from Hawaii, residents who go to the South, go to Vegas, to other places, and they come back and spread it."

In Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown announced this week that nearly everyone will have to wear masks again in indoor public spaces, regardless of their vaccination status. □

For the second straight day Wednesday, the state reported a record number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients 665. The previous peak of 622 came during a November surge, before the vaccine became available. ICU beds across the state are about 90% full. □

Bidder offers up to \$120 million for collapsed condo site

MIAMI (AP) — A private bidder is willing to offer up to \$120 million to purchase the Miami-area ocean-



In this June 25, 2021, file photo, rescue personnel work at the remains of the Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside, Fla.

Associated Press

front property where the collapsed Champlain Towers South building once stood.

The offer was revealed Wednesday during a hearing before Circuit Judge Michael Hanzman, who is overseeing the dozens of lawsuits that have been filed since the condominium collapsed June 24, killing 98 people. Officials are still trying to determine what caused the building to collapse.

The judge authorized negotiation of an agreement with the bidder, who was not publicly identified. A real estate broker told the judge he had a "letter of

interest" from the bidder that offered \$110 million for the property, the Miami Herald reported.

"They're willing to go to \$120 million," said Michael Fay, who has been appointed to work on the real estate deal.

"That's the best news I've heard so far today," the judge said. He then asked Fay to move as "quickly as possible" to get to a "short auction process."

"I want to compensate these victims as soon as possible," Hanzman said. Some families had hoped the government would purchase the property to turn it into a park or a me-

morial site to honor the victims, rather than a residential or commercial development. On Wednesday, Manny Kadre, a lawyer who is serving as a liaison between the court and elected leaders, said that appears "very highly unlikely," the Herald reported. He suggested that perhaps officials could step in to help forgive mortgages, create a victims compensation fund or help with creating a memorial on the site or nearby.

"The property being monetized by government is a very, very unlikely scenario," Kadre told the newspaper. □

Media, Holocaust bills test Poland's ties with US, Israel

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Poland is looking at a more difficult relationship with two allies, the United States and Israel, after lawmakers approved separate bills on foreign ownership of media and affecting the property rights of Holocaust survivors' families which the Polish government had been warned to drop.

The European Union also slammed the media bill on Thursday as undermining media freedom, adding to pre-existing strains between Warsaw and Brussels from the EU's perception of democratic backsliding in member nation Poland.

The bills passed the lower house of the Polish parliament on Wednesday, and still require approval of the president, who supports the right-wing party that has governed the country since 2015. The two proposals threaten to further isolate Poland, whose geographic position in Central Europe has often left it at the mercy of stronger neighbors. Poland's membership of the EU and NATO and its relationship with the U.S. are considered key guarantees of the country's security.

One of the bills that passed would push Discovery Inc.,



People protest outside the Polish Parliament after lawmakers passed a bill seen as harmful to media freedom in Warsaw, Poland, Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

the U.S. owner of Poland's largest private television network, to sell its large and popular Polish network, TVN. It follows the state broadcasting authority's ongoing refusal to renew the license for TVN's all-news station TVN24, which expires in September.

Discovery accused Poland of violating a U.S.-Polish investment treaty, and said it notified the Polish government on Thursday that it was initiating legal action at an international arbitration court over the "discrim-

inatory campaign."

"We are deeply committed to safeguarding our investment in Poland and its people, defending the public's interest in independent media and the rights of freedom of expression," said Jean-Briac Perrette, the president of Discovery International, adding that "we will aggressively defend our rights."

The other bill in an administrative amendment which would result in former owners, including Holocaust survivors and their descen-

dants, from regaining property expropriated by the country's communist regime.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a statement late Wednesday about what he called the "troubling legislation."

"These pieces of legislation run counter to the principles and values for which modern, democratic nations stand," Blinken said.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki responded Thursday by suggesting the U.S. officials do not under-

stand the Polish bills and should analyze them more closely.

On the media bill, Morawiecki said: "We do not have any intentions regarding a specific television channel. It is just about tightening the regulations so that there is no situation in which companies from outside the European Union would freely buy media in Poland."

The media bill triggered nationwide protests Tuesday. Among the participants expressing fear that their right to independent information was under attack were older Poles who remember the censorship of the communist era.

By contrast, the law which would affect the former property owners both Jewish and non-Jewish got almost no media coverage in Poland. But it sparked a fast and angry response from Israel, with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid saying it "damages both the memory of the Holocaust and the rights of its victims."

The EU Commission said it will follow the media issue very closely while the head of the EU's top watchdog for democratic values, Vera Jourova, tweeted that the foreign ownership bill sends a negative signal. □

Russian investigators probe big Black Sea oil spill

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

MOSCOW (AP) —

Russia's top criminal investigation agency on Thursday probed an oil spill off the country's Black Sea coast that appeared hugely bigger than initially reported.

The spill occurred over the weekend at the oil terminal in Yuzhnaya Ozereyevka near the port of Novorossiysk that belongs to the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, which pumps crude from Kazakhstan. The oil spilled while being pumped into the Minerva Symphony tanker, which sails under the Greek flag.

Authorities initially estimated that the spill covered

only about 200 square meters (2,153 square feet), but Russian scientists said Wednesday after studying satellite images that it actually covered nearly 80 square kilometers (nearly 31 square miles).

WWF Russia has estimated that about 100 metric tons of oil have spilled into the sea.

The Investigative Committee, the country's top criminal investigation agency, said Thursday it was conducting a probe on charges of inflicting significant damage to marine biological resources. The committee said it performed searches at the Caspian

Pipeline Consortium and inspected the area for damage.

Russian media said traces of oil were spotted along the scenic Black Sea coast, including Abrau-Dyurso and a dolphin aquarium in Bolshoy Utrish, 25 kilometers (15 miles) to the west, where workers urgently put up barriers to protect the mammals. The spill's oily film was also spotted in the resort city of Anapa, further west down the coast.

Veniamin Kondratyev, the governor of the Krasnodar region, sought to downplay the impact of the spill, saying that he and other officials flew over the area



The Minerva Symphony tanker, which sails under the Greek flag is seen at the Black Sea coast after an oil spill, near Novorossiysk, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

in a helicopter and saw no trace of it at sea. "Quick measures were taken to eliminate the consequences," Kondratyev said, according to the Interfax news agency.

The governor later met with the head of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, who assured him that the sea has remained clean thanks to quick efforts to contain the spill. □

Sudan signs deal with ICC to get justice for Darfur victims

By **NOHA ELHENNAWY**

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP)—Sudan signed an agreement with the International Criminal Court on Thursday to move forward in the cases against those accused of atrocities in the Darfur region, including the country's former President Omar al-Bashir, a top ICC prosecutor said. Prosecutor Karim Khan said at a press conference that he would also be deploying a full-time team from his office to Sudan. The developments come as Sudan's government continues to hold al-Bashir in prison. The ICC issued a warrant for al-Bashir on war crimes charges more than a decade ago, while he was in office. The agreement further raises the possibility of al-Bashir being tried in The Hague, where the ICC is based, an issue that remains controversial in Sudan. Khan landed in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum earlier this week and held meetings with the president of Sudan's transitional council, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, Prime Minister Abdullah Hamdok, judiciary officials and civil society representatives. "This agreement provides a basis for cooperation and



Karim Ahmed Khan, International Criminal Court chief prosecutor, speaks during a news conference at the Ministry of Justice in the Khartoum Sudan Thursday Aug. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

exchange of information in relation to all cases where there are warrants," he said, adding that such cooperation will help the ICC build strong cases. Al-Bashir has been in jail in Khartoum since his ouster in April 2019 amid a public uprising against his nearly three-decade autocratic rule. The ICC has charged him with crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Darfur conflict. Though he did not discuss dates for a handover of al-Bashir, Khan said he welcomed the Sudanese

Cabinet's recent approval of a draft bill allowing the East African country to join the court's founding treaty, known as the Rome Statute. The decision was a step forward in the long-awaited trial of those wanted by the ICC. Khan said that the ratification of that bill is expected to be discussed next week at a joint meeting of Sudan's ruling Sovereign Council and Cabinet, which together serve as an interim parliament. When asked whether Bashir could be tried outside the Hague, Khan said the

Rome Statute says that the ICC may convene away from the seat a matter the court's presidency and judges can decide on. The conflict in Sudan's Darfur region broke out when rebels from the territory's ethnic central and sub-Saharan African community launched an insurgency in 2003, complaining of oppression by the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum. Al-Bashir's government responded with a campaign of aerial bombings and raids by militias known as janjaweed. The

militias stand accused of mass killings and rapes. Up to 300,000 people were killed and 2.7 million were driven from their homes. "We cannot march from the darkness into the light without dealing with some of the crimes and injustices of the past," Khan said. He also said Sudanese authorities welcomed his decision to deploy a full-time team of ICC lawyers to Khartoum for better first-hand knowledge of "the undercurrents and the complexities" of the dynamics in Sudan. Also indicted by the court are two other senior figures from al-Bashir's rule: Abdel-Rahim Muhammad Hussein, interior and defense minister during much of the conflict, and Ahmed Haroun, a senior security chief at the time and later the leader of al-Bashir's ruling party. Both have been under arrest in Khartoum since the Sudanese military, under pressure from protesters, ousted al-Bashir. The court has also indicted rebel leader Abdulla Banda, whose whereabouts are unknown, and janjaweed leader Ali Kushayb, who was charged in May with crimes against humanity and war crimes. □

Indonesia's army stops 'virginity tests' on female recruits

By **NINIEK KARMINI**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Human rights groups welcomed Indonesia's decision to stop abusive "virginity tests" on female army recruits seven years after the World Health Organization declared they had no scientific validity. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Andika Perkasa said the army will no longer subject women to invasive tests in which the inspectors used their fingers to assess whether the hymen was intact. He said applicants should only be assessed on their ability to take part in physical training and that the military would emphasize whether they have color blindness and the condition of their spines and hearts

to ensure they are healthy and will not encounter life-threatening medical issues. "These improvements make us focused, effective

and precise, and (ensure) that we have direction," Perkasa told reporters on Tuesday during annual U.S.-Indonesia joint military drills



In this Oct. 5, 2017, file photo, female members of Indonesian Army show their martial arts skills during a parade marking the 72nd anniversary of the Indonesian Armed Forces in Cilegon, Banten, Indonesia.

Associated Press

in North Sulawesi's Minahasa district. He said the army's hospital directors and medical officers have been informed of the new procedures since May. WHO in its 2014 clinical guidelines for health care of sexually abused women said the so-called "virginity test" lacks any scientific basis. Human Rights Watch researcher Andreas Harsono called for increased pressure on Indonesia's navy and air force commanders to end the practice as well. "The army command is doing the right thing," Harsono said in a statement received by The Associated Press on Thursday. "It is now the responsibility of territorial and battalion com-

manders to follow orders, and recognize the unscientific, rights-abusing nature of this practice." Human Rights Watch previously found that applicants who were deemed to have "failed" the test were not necessarily penalized but all of those subjected to it said it was painful, embarrassing and traumatic. Human Rights Watch has also documented the use of such tests by security forces in Egypt, India and Afghanistan and criticized calls for virginity tests for Indonesian school girls. It said the Indonesian military and police imposed the tests for decades and sometimes tested the fiancées of military officers. Indonesian police ended the practice in 2018. □

EXPLAINER: Low expectations for Venezuela-opposition talks

By **FABIOLA SANCHEZ**

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The government of Venezuela and its opposition will begin a new dialogue Friday in Mexico.

It's the third attempt in four years, and it's surrounded by very low expectations from analysts and even apathy from citizens of the troubled South American nation.

The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden could play a fundamental role in the process because the government of Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro seeks the easing of crippling economic sanctions. Here is a summary of why the dialogue is taking place:

WHAT IS THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT LOOKING FOR?

Maduro is in a greater position of strength in the face of an opposition that has weakened and fractured since the last rounds of talks in 2017-2018 and 2019. His opponents are losing their capacity to pressure the socialist government from the streets or from the National Assembly, which is no longer led by the opposition. Analysts suggest that Maduro's only interest in these negotiations is to get



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks during a press conference after he voted in the ruling party's primary elections of United Socialist Party of Venezuela, at the Escuela Ecológica Bolivariana Simón Rodríguez in the Fuerte Tiuna neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021.

the Biden administration to ease the sanctions that were toughened by his predecessor, Donald Trump. "The expectation of the Maduro government to go to the table is to obtain concessions, not from the opposition but from the U.S. government," said Mariano de Alba, senior adviser to the nongovernmental International Crisis Group.

WHAT IS THE OPPOSITION'S INTEREST?

The opposition coalition

headed by Juan Guaidó has said it will seek to promote a plan for massive imports of COVID-19 vaccines and a "National Salvation Agreement" that would involve negotiations with Maduro's government and its local allies, opposition organizations and the international community. Guaidó, whom the U.S. and other countries recognize as Venezuela's legitimate leader, had consistently rejected any coexistence

with Maduro, but he abandoned that position when he proposed the national agreement for the first time in May. Only about 3.9% of Venezuelan's 28.5 million residents are fully vaccinated, according to Johns Hopkins University. The opposition also wants a schedule for transparent and democratic elections. Venezuelans are expected to elect governors and mayors in November, but opposition forces say the

electoral conditions are grossly unfair and have yet to decide whether they will participate.

De Alba said the opposition "has very little bargaining power" to press Maduro on elections. He said Guaidó and his allies can only try to achieve "better conditions" going into the November vote and reach some partial agreements to try to "re-institutionalize" the country.

WHAT ROLE CAN THE U.S. PLAY?

The Biden administration has been in favor of a negotiated solution to Venezuela's crises, but it is not yet clear to what extent it would be willing to relax economic sanctions. Last month, it agreed to lift a sanction and allow non-U.S. companies to export liquefied petroleum gas to Venezuela, a humanitarian move that will allow people to eventually regain access to propane rather than cooking on coal or wood stoves.

David Smilde, senior adviser to the independent Washington Office for Latin American Affairs, said the U.S. government, along with the European Union and Canada, "are willing to negotiate sanctions even if Maduro is in power." □

Panama, Colombia agree to limit of 650 migrants per day

By **JUAN ZAMORANO**

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — The governments of Panama and Colombia agreed Wednesday to impose a daily limit on the number of migrants passing through the thickly jungled and roadless Darien Gap on the two countries' border.

The plan aims to limit crossings to 650 migrants per day in August and 500 in September. Migrants, mainly Cubans and Haitians, use jungle paths to travel from South America to Panama, in a bid to reach Mexico and then the U.S. border. Some people from Venezuela, Africa and Southern Asia also use the route. So far this year, Panama estimates more than 50,000

migrants have come through the dangerous Darien route, about double the number in 2018. Officials say about 16% of them are children or youths.

The director of Panama's immigration service, Samira Gozaine, said the agreement will bring improvements.

"This is very positive for us, because Panama has seen days in which we get as many as 1,500 or 2,000 migrants entering in one day," Gozaine. "One week, we got as many as 10,000."

An estimated 15,000 migrants are currently en route through Colombia heading for Panama.

The agreement was reached during a teleconference between officials

from Panama and Colombia, in which representatives of Mexico, the United States, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Peru also participated.

The two countries said they will also cooperate to prosecute criminal gangs that rob migrants and traffic drugs through the largely roadless area.

It remains to be seen how effective the agreement will be. The two countries' efforts may lead some migrants to hike through even more difficult terrain.

At present, the most common migrant route runs from the Ecuadorian border through Colombia to the town of Necoclí, where ferries carry people across the Gulf of Uraba to the

even smaller border town of Capurgana, Colombia. From there, they head into the Darien Gap.

There has been a sharp re-

bound in the number of migrants from last year, when pandemic restrictions reduced mobility for locals and migrants alike. □



Colombia's Foreign Minister Marta Lucia Ramirez, left, and Panama's Foreign Minister Erika Mouynes, talk during a press conference after a private meeting in Metetí, Darien province, Panama, near the border with Colombia, Friday, Aug. 6, 2021.

Associated Press

LOCAL



As part of AAA's sustainability goal: AAA, Total Services, and Ecotech collaborate on efforts to achieve sustainable Waste Management for AUA Airport



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA), the company that manages and operates Queen Beatrix International Airport (AUA Airport), has recently joined forces with its waste management suppliers Total Services and Ecotech to start several projects that

would contribute to the sustainable management of airport waste.

"As a result of the increasing passenger number, AUA Airport is experiencing higher volumes of waste, but we have not been able to address this issue sus-

tainably, due to the complexities of our operations," said AAA's Director Health, Safety and Sustainability, Mrs. Angeline Flemming. "This year, AAA chose the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) as one of our main strategic pillars, and we must now walk

the talk and start taking action. But to make significant change happen, we need to partner up with our waste management suppliers," said Flemming.

In September, AAA, Ecotech, and Total Services, with the help of all the airport concessionaires, will start a pilot project for the separation of cartons. Carton can be broken down and recycled, thus con-

serving energy and natural resources while protecting the environment. Carton can be separated relatively quickly and taking cartons out of the waste compactors will also help reduce the amount of waste that cannot be recycled. This is the first and essential step to a further separation and waste reduction at AUA Airport, and AAA hopes other companies and entities will follow. □

Goodwill Ambassadors honored at Hyatt Regency Aruba

PALM BEACH — Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba for 20 years consecutive years or more.

The honorees were couple Mr. Ed & Mrs. Rose Enderle from New Jersey, USA!

This lovely couple indicated that they love our island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Spa and Casino presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificate to the honorees, handed over some additional presents, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



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Bert de Vries is celebrating 45 years in optics and 25th anniversary at The Specialists Vision & Hearing, formerly known as Optica Oduber & Kan.



ORANJESTAD — Bert's adventure in optics started at an early age of 20. The Christian Huygens School in Rotterdam was where Bert earned his Optometrist and Contact Lenses diploma. After his study, Bert traveled to all parts of the world from UAE to USA, doing what he loved the most, practicing eyecare.

The year was 1996 and Bert de Vries together with his family traveled long and far to move to a tiny island in the Caribbean to start a new adventure. Bert settled in immediately at his job as Optometrist/Store Manager of the well-

known store Oduber & Kan. He quickly fell in love with Aruba and the company. On February 28 2003, a manager's buyout was final and since then Bert, along with his wife, RoseMarie, has run the business as their own.

Fast forward 25 years, Bert has been joined by his succession, his three children, LeRoy, Iris and Marcus. And just like that, de Vries family is introducing innovation and fresh new ideas to the local optical market, thanks to Bert's solid foundation.

To everyone who knows

him - Bert is the hardest worker, dedicating 110% every day to his passion - Eye Care. He is driven to share his knowledge with others and so has the reputation of being an optical educator. He leads by example and continues to strive for excellence in everything he does.

Congratulations Bert!



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vision & hearing

25

YEARS!

WE ARE CELEBRATING BERT DE VRIES - 45 YEARS IN THE OPTICS AND 25 YEARS AT THE SPECIALISTS. THANK YOU BERT, FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND PASSION FOR YOUR WORK!

Aruba Living Today, real estate mediation: We believe in building a connection and constructing a future

NOORD — "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch," says Randolph Arends, owner of Aruba Living Today. Together with his business partner Berend Prenger and a dedicated team they practice what they preach: mediation in Real Estate with a high service level. "I am proud to state that so far all of my clients stayed with us. I am not selling a fairytale, in ten years of course there were challenges too but it is about how you handle those. It's like with family, you stick together with ups and downs. But the love is there."

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Berend is also a certified Appraisal within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "This definitely speeds up the process of buying," he says. This different approach of real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart and is also the reason why Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion and I can only do this from the heart."

Testimonials

What better way to reinforce his words than sharing some of the amazing testimonials Aruba Living Today received from their clients. We made a selection for you because we lack space to publish them all.

J. 1987

"Randolph and his team helped us immensely to find our dream home on Aruba. Their service is excellent, before and after buying the house. His office also helped us with financing the property. Finding the perfect home is the goal, but



what I found just as important during the whole process is Randolph's integrity. He really looks at what you need, doesn't make false claims and also advises you correctly when it is not in his own interest. This makes you feel valued and in good hands."

vanmullem1

"Without any doubt the best real estate agent on the island! Randolph helped out buying our property on the island, representing us as a buyer. The guy knows the island and most people in Aruba what is a great help. His after sales goes way beyond expected and included services like helping getting connected to water, electricity and gas. If needed he can help you find renters for your house and managing it, again with the same service and transparency. Summarizing, the guy and his company are our eyes and ears on the island if we are not there."

Debora Zywusko

"My husband and I have been coming to Aruba for 30 years and have dreamed about owning our own home in Aruba. I was referred to Randolph from Aruba Living Today. I am a Realtor myself in the US for 38 years, so finding the right Realtor was the key. Randolph and his team has made this process a piece of cake. His integrity and honesty has made him a success, always available when we called or wanted to meet. Not only is he our Realtor, but a new lifelong friend!!! Be sure to call him."

Frank Stolp

"Aruba Living Today is probably the best real estate agent on the island. Randolph and his team arranged long term rental houses for us, communication with them is always correct and they respond quickly. Absolutely recommend Aruba Living Today!"

Linda Kandel

"THE BEST! No other way to describe the way I was treated at this company. ABOVE AND BEYOND any expected services. 5 star all the way! Don't hesitate."

The door is open

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments, magazines and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association they are listed also on the website www.arubalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured as well on television and you can find them on House Hunters, Social Media - Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper.

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Without 'right to repair,' businesses lose time and money

By MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer

As software and other technologies get infused in more and more products, manufacturers are increasingly making those products difficult to repair, potentially costing business owners time and money.

Makers of products ranging from smartphones to farm equipment can withhold repair tools and create software-based locks that prevent even simple updates, unless they're done by a repair shop authorized by the company.

That can cost independent repair shops valuable business and countless labor hours sourcing high quality parts from other vendors. Farmers can lose thousands waiting for authorized dealers to fix malfunctioning equipment. And consumers end up paying more for repairs -- or replacing items altogether that could have been fixed.

"If we don't address these problems, and let manufacturers dictate terms of what they allow for repairs, we really are in danger of losing access to the repair infrastructure that exists," said Nathan Proctor, senior director for the Right to Repair campaign at U.S. PIRG, a consumer advocacy group.

While it's difficult to put a dollar sign on how much the restrictions cost small businesses, the U.S. PIRG estimates it costs consumers \$40 billion a year. That averages out to \$330 per U.S. family, who end up replacing broken phones, laptops, refrigerators, and other electronic instead of having them repaired.

Jessa Jones owns iPad Rehab in Honeoye Falls, New York, which specializes in microsoldering, which means repairing electronics on a microscopic level. She recalls a potential customer who drove an hour and a half to her repair shop because his home button stopped working on his iPhone 7.

Jones says the iPhone had a tiny nick on the home button cable.

"I have a brand new iPhone



This photo provided by Sarah Rachor shows Rachor in her hop yard, April 4, 2021 near Sidney, Mont.

home button, I could cure the problem if I was allowed," she said.

What stymied Jones is Apple's software that calibrates different parts of a phone like the screen and battery. While Jones herself is certified by Apple to fix phones, iPad Rehab isn't an authorized Apple repair shop, so she couldn't access the software or official part and repair the iPhone 7. Many independent repair shops opt not to get authorized because the terms can hamstring their business in other ways.

"Counterintuitively, Apple Authorization would force me to decline 90% of the jobs that we do or lose the authorization," Jones says. The customer left without a repair, and Jones missed out on a fee for what would have been an "easy fix." iPad Rehab's data recovery and repair services can cost anywhere from \$35 to \$600. She said in the past three years, her business has been forced to pivot from half repairs and half data recovery to 90% data recovery and only 10% repairs.

The Federal Trade Commission recently signaled things might be starting to change when it adopted a

policy statement supporting the "right to repair" that pledges beefed-up enforcement of current anti-trust and consumer protection laws and could open the way to new regulations.

For its part, Apple says its restrictions are in place for quality and safety concerns. They authorize technicians who pass a software and hardware exam annually. They also started an independent repair provider program in 2019 and say the latest iPhone 12 "allows for more repairs to be performed at more repair locations than ever before."

While Apple has been the most publicly in the cross-hairs about the right-to-repair issue, all smartphone makers have similar policies. The issue spans other industries too. Farmers and farm equipment repair technicians complain they can't fix what should be fixable problems on tractors and combines due to the software installed by manufacturers.

Sarah Rachor is a fourth-generation farmer, who runs a farm with 600 acres in Eastern Montana with her father that grows sugar beets, wheat, soybeans

and corn.

She has a tractor from 1998, mainly because it was before new technology was installed in farm equipment, along with an older 1987 combine for back-up. The 1998 tractor has a manual with codes that she uses to manually reset it when something goes wrong. That's not possible with newer machines, she said. "Anything newer than that, I'd have to call certified repair places," she said. The wheat harvest lasts just a few weeks, and any breakdown that takes days to fix could be a disaster, she added.

"A weeklong break down can easily cost thousands of dollars, on top of the repairs needed," she said. "If I know how to do something, I shouldn't have to wait and call a technician for something simple, or even to diagnose the problem," she said. "I love technology, but it is making simple things harder."

John Deere says it "supports a customer's right to safely maintain, diagnose and repair their equipment," but "does not support the right to modify embedded software due to risks associated with the safe operation of the equipment,

emissions compliance and engine performance."

Justin Maus has owned RNH Equipment in Mount Hope, Kansas, since 2019. He repairs agricultural equipment like tractors and combines.

"We run into situations where a moisture meter on a combine needs to be replaced," he said. "We can replace it in 20 minutes, but it will not operate. We have to have a dealer come out and put software on it to make it work." The wait for the dealer can sometimes be a day or more.

During harvest time, when agricultural equipment like combines are running at full throttle for several weeks, it's common for mechanical problems to arise. In June alone, the moisture meter problem came up three or four times with customers, Maus said.

One customer drove four hours to get a controller from a dealership. But he still had to wait another day for the dealer to have time in his schedule to install it. The restrictions cost not only lost revenue, but growth opportunities, he said.

Without them, "not only would we be able to repair just about anything with the equipment we work on, making us more attractive to new and bigger customers, but we would also be more attractive to young new techs coming into the workforce," he said.

Kyle Wiens, CEO and co-founder of electronics repair company iFixit, in San Luis Obispo, California, which sells repair parts for electronics and gadgets online to consumers and small businesses, says without regulators stepping in, the problem will just get worse. He said the FTC's involvement is a good start, but more is needed. In addition to the FTC, the "right to repair" movement is making progress with state legislation. There are right-to-repair bills of some form in 27 states, Wiens said.

"A policy is good, but we're going to need a rule they enforce," he said. "We want to get back to a fair playing field." □

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 TV's
1 Stately "Uncle home Miltie"
6 "Great!"
11 Conductor 42 Tibia's end
12 Goofy 43 Having Seiji tattoos
13 Home run, 44 Surgery tool
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- DOWN**
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- 24 Ran, as color
25 Lacking luxury
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29 Glorifies
32 Afternoon break
33 Fire proof
34 Light touch
35 One-million link
36 Island ring
37 Penny prez
38 Victim of Corday

ROBOT	FIATS
ABODE	ANNOY
NIXON	UNDER
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APU	BET NAP
RETOLD	AUTO
INTHEGUTTER	
STEM	INABIT
EAR	JET UNO
BASALT	
CAROM	MATTE
AMAZE	EVEN
TYPOS	DARTS

Yesterday's answer

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44						45			

8-13

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-13

CRYPTOQUOTE

DKRGYBD OMYW EZN CZJ'W
UJZO ... RDBYNPD OMYW EZN
CZJ'W UJZO BYJ RDBZKD
EZNG LGDYWD PW YPPDW.

— PYGY RIYUDIE

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, ALWAYS ACT ON FIRST IMPRESSIONS. — LEO TOLSTOY



From left, Samsung Galaxy Flip 3 and Fold 3 are displayed on Monday, Aug. 9, 2021 at Samsung KX in London.

Associated Press

Samsung slashes prices in bid to boost foldable phone sales

By MICHAEL LIETKE
SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP) —

Samsung is hoping cheaper but more durable versions of its foldable phones will broaden the appeal of a high-concept design that's so far fizzled with consumers. The electronics giant on Wednesday launched its effort to turn things around with two new products designed to function as both a phone and, when unfolded outward on a hinge, a tablet.

The larger Galaxy Fold3 boasts a 7.6-inch display when unfolded and will sell for \$1,800, a 10% drop from last year's model. The other device, the Galaxy Flip3, looks more like a flip phone, but can still be opened from its clamshell position into a 6.7-inch display. It will sell for \$1,000, more than 25% below the price for last year's original model.

Besides the new phones, Samsung also unveiled its first smartwatches powered by software designed in tandem with Google as both companies try to catch up with Apple in that part of the wearable tech market.

Since releasing its first foldable phones in 2019, Samsung has been hyping the technology as a breakthrough that will spur more consumers to splurge on

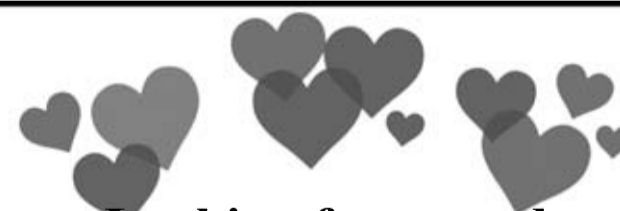
new phones instead of holding on to older devices until they wear out or upgrading to new models that have most of the same features.

But foldable phones have barely made a ripple in the smartphone market, with roughly 2 million of the devices shipped last year, according to the research firm International Data Corp. That's a tiny fraction of the nearly 1.3 billion smartphones shipped worldwide last year, IDC said. "What has really been holding back the mass consumption of these foldable devices is the high price," IDC

analyst Nabila Popal said. "Most people really don't see the need for it. At least nothing that justifies forking out an additional thousand dollars."

Popal believes Samsung's lower prices for its latest foldable phones are still too far above what most consumers are willing to pay for phones.

In another sign of foldable phones' progress, nearly 50 of the top 100 mobile apps, are now available for its unique format, said Drew Blackard, the South Korean company's vice president of product management. □



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Higher but still slim odds of asteroid Benu slamming Earth

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — The good news is that scientists have a better handle on asteroid Benu's whereabouts for the next 200 years. The bad news is that the space rock has a slightly greater chance of clobbering Earth than previously thought.

But don't be alarmed: Scientists reported Wednesday that the odds are still quite low that Benu will hit us in the next century.

"We shouldn't be worried about it too much," said Davide Farnocchia, a scientist with NASA's Center for Near Earth Object Studies at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, who served as the study's lead author.

While the odds of a strike have risen from 1-in-2,700 to 1-in-1,750 over the next century or two, scientists now have a much better idea of Benu's path thanks to NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft, according to Farnocchia.

"So I think that overall, the situation has improved," he told reporters.

The spacecraft is headed back to Earth on a long, roundabout loop after collecting samples from the large, spinning rubble pile of an asteroid, considered one of the two most hazardous known asteroids in our solar system. The samples are due here in 2023. Before Osiris-Rex arrived at Benu in 2018, telescopes provided solid insight into the asteroid, about one-third of a mile (one-half kilometer) in diameter. The spacecraft collected enough data over 2 1/2



This undated image made available by NASA shows the asteroid Benu from the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft.

years to help scientists better predict the asteroid's orbital path well into the future.

Their findings published in the journal *Icarus* should also help in charting the course of other asteroids and give Earth a better fighting chance if and when another hazardous space rock heads our way. Before Osiris-Rex arrived on the scene, scientists put the odds of Benu hitting Earth through the year 2200 at 1-in-2,700. Now it's 1-in-1,750 through the year 2300. The single most menacing day is Sept. 24, 2182. Benu will have a close encounter with Earth in 2135 when it passes within half the distance of the moon. Earth's gravity could tweak

its future path and put it on a collision course with Earth in the 2200s less likely now based on Osiris-Rex observations.

If Benu did slam into Earth, it wouldn't wipe out life, dinosaur-style, but rather create a crater roughly 10 to 20 times the size of the asteroid, said Lindley Johnson, NASA's planetary defense officer. The area of devastation would be much bigger: as much as 100 times the size of the crater.

If an object Benu's size hit the Eastern Seaboard, it "would pretty much devastate things up and down the coast," he told reporters.

Scientists already are ahead of the curve with

Benu, which was discovered in 1999. Finding threatening asteroids in advance increases the chances and options for pushing them out of our way, Johnson said. "One-hundred years from now, who knows what the technology is going to be?" he said. □

Associated Press



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'Lost Leonardo' unpeels the mysteries of the Salvator Mundi

By JAKE COYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — We're accustomed to movies usually adventures, like "Indiana Jones" with lines that traverse the globe and pinball between global capitals, showing us where our characters are traveling. "The Lost Leonardo," a documentary about the rediscovery of a Leonardo da Vinci painting, begins with such a line. But its international stops, chronicling the painting's sales, are baffling leaps.

New Orleans, 2005: \$1,175. London and Geneva, 2013. \$83 million, then \$127 million.

Saudi Arabia, 2017. \$450 million.

Such is the winding journey of the Salvator Mundi, a painting of Jesus Christ attributed to Leonardo da Vinci that has been enveloped in mystery and intrigue ever since it was first acquired, restored and celebrated as a lost original of the Renaissance master. "The Lost Leonardo," which Sony Pictures Classics releases in theaters Friday, engrossingly frames the unlikely saga like an international thriller as opaque as any John Le Carré novel.

To its director, the Danish filmmaker Andreas Koefoed, it's also a kind of dark fairy tale, complete with a prince and a lost treasure. Above all, perhaps, it's a portrait of an art world where masterworks can serve as global capital.

"You have this romantic idea of art as something pure and a beautiful expression of human beings through history, and then it meets this very cynical, capitalistic world," says Koefoed, speaking by Zoom from Copenhagen. "It's an explosive cocktail together."

The painting in 2017 obliterated art-sale records. But it was first acquired, like a far-fetched episode of "Antiques Roadshow," at a Louisiana estate sale. While browsing, a pair of New York art dealers believed it worth buying to get a better look. They brought it to one of the field's top conservators, Dianne Dwyer



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Dianne Modestini, left, and Ashok Roy inspecting the Naples copy of the Salvator Mundi in a scene from "The Lost Leonardo."

Associated Press

Modestini, who carefully removed the heavy overpainting that coated it and mended other mistreatments from the intervening centuries. Gradually she and others began to think the painting wasn't the work of a Leonardo pupil, as once suspected, but of the master, himself.

Modestini's bond with the painting was especially strong. She worked on it for three years following the death of her husband, Italian conservator and art buyer Mario Modestini.

"It's not just a painting. It's more than that," Modestini says, speaking by phone from her New York apartment. "It's an object infused with power. That sounds a little weird and corny but I believe that. When I was working on it, I had this experience of feeling my husband was right by my side the whole time. And I couldn't have done it without him."

Many art historians and institutions like London's

National Gallery, which exhibited the painting in 2011 have arrived at the same attribution. (Modestini created a website with technical details on her findings.) But not everyone agree with her conclusions. In the film, art critic Kenny Schachter jokes that it's a "contemporary painting" for how heavily it was restored. The art critic Jerry Saltz calls it "no more real than any of the dreamed-up scams and schemes by people that may not mean to be flim-flamming, but in the end, they all went along for the ride."

In "Lost Leonardo," it's a ride through an art world peopled by colorful characters and eccentric billionaires. The painting was first sold to Swiss businessman Yves Bouvier, who expanded the use of freeports as tax-free stations for high-priced goods, like artwork. He paid \$83 million but he was really acting on behalf of Russian oligarch Dmitry Rybolovlev,

whom Bouvier immediately flipped it to for \$127.5 million. (A high-profile lawsuit resulted when Rybolovlev learned of Bouvier's negotiating tactics.)

In the art market as seen in "Lost Leonardo," it's seldom clear who's buying and who's selling. One person calls it the most unregulated market after drugs and prostitution. Even once the Salvator Mundi was auctioned by Christie's, the winning bidder of \$450 million was unknown. Only later did reports leak out that the ruler of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was behind the purchase.

The Salvator Mundi was later expected to be shown at the Louvre, but was ultimately absent from a major exhibition reportedly due to the museum's refusal to exhibit it, as Mohammed requested, alongside the Mona Lisa. Since 2017, the painting hasn't been seen publicly.

"It proves a point of the sto-

ry that the truth is somehow lost in all this," says Koefoed. "There's so much at stake, so many power interests, so many money interests that the truth disappears. Not only do we have a lost painting, we also have lost the truth somehow."

Koefoed, a veteran documentary filmmaker, has no fine arts background and was only drawn into the story of the Salvator Mundi after its headline-making auction. He and cinematographer Adam Jandrup shot many of the subjects head-on, as if they're sitting for a portrait, and lit them a little like a Renaissance painting. The movie refuses to take sides in the still simmering disputes over the Salvator Mundi.

"I decided to remain open to both possibilities," says Koefoed. "I think it's more interesting to let the viewer become their own detective in the story."

The National Gallery, the Louvre and Christie's declined to participate. But of the many players that did none has a role like Modestini. Her experience with the painting and its contested reputation is rendered intimately. She has only praise for Koefoed and his film, but debates over the Salvator Mundi Modestini no longer has energy for.

"I don't really care. I know what I know about the painting and it seems to me a no-brainer to me, the attribution. If people have other ideas, that's fine. But I really would like to get on with my life. It's been so consumed by this. I will never make another film," Modestini says. "This is it for me."

The painting, though, still looms large in her mind. Its power, she says, is only really conveyed in person. The effect can't be photographed. It can't be reproduced.

"It just emanates this extraordinary sense of something totally beyond human understanding," Modestini says. "It's a tragedy that it was so abused," she adds, before reflecting on it being out of sight. "It's a continuing tragedy." □

Cubs release former ace Arrieta after rough return to team

CHICAGO (AP) — Jake Arrieta won a Cy Young Award and helped the Chicago Cubs capture a drought-busting World Series championship in his first stint with the club. His second go-round was nowhere near as successful. It ended with his release on Thursday.

Arrieta was informed of the decision a day earlier, after getting tagged for eight runs in a 10-0 loss to Milwaukee, Cubs president Jed Hoyer said. The 35-year-old right-hander was 5-11 with a 6.88 ERA in 20 starts.

"Nothing that happened on the mound last night or the other nights in any way diminishes his role in club history," Hoyer said. "When you look back, I think there's a really good argument to say he's one of the more influential people in the history of this franchise."

The Cubs also placed catcher Willson Contreras on the 10-day injured list because of sprained right knee that Hoyer said is not serious. They selected right-handed pitcher Ryan Meisinger from Triple-A Iowa, reinstated catcher Austin Romine from the 60-day IL and designated left-hander Kyle Ryan for assignment.

Arrieta agreed in February to a \$6 million, one-year



Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Jake Arrieta throws to a Milwaukee Brewers batter during the first inning of a baseball game in Chicago, Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

deal. His return to Chicago had a chance to be a feel-good story, but it ended on a rough note. He was 0-7 with a 9.92 ERA in his final 11 starts.

Arrieta was the NL Cy Young Award winner with Chicago in 2015 and helped the Cubs win the 2016 World Series, their first championship since 1908. He went 68-31 with a 2.73 ERA in 128 starts over five years and

threw two no-hitters during his first stint with the team.

He then signed a \$75 million, three-year contract with Philadelphia in free agency and went 22-23 with a 4.36 ERA in 64 starts with the Phillies. He had a 4-4 record and a 5.08 ERA in nine starts during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

When Arrieta returned to Chicago, he joined a new-

look rotation. The Cubs traded Yu Darvish to San Diego and let Jon Lester depart for in free agency. He also reunited with David Ross, who caught Arrieta's second no-hitter and led Chicago to the NL Central championship last year in his first season as manager. Ross said the decision to release Arrieta was tough.

"You hate that one on so many levels for me," Ross

said. "A friend and a guy I've got so much to be thankful for that he's given me. It just stinks. I try to forget stuff like last night, look at what he's done for this organization, how consistent he has been with the time I was on his team in '15 and '16."

The Cubs had dropped seven straight and 13 of 15 heading into Thursday's game against Milwaukee. They've gone from being tied with the Brewers for the NL Central lead after Zach Davies and the bullpen combined to no-hit the Los Angeles Dodgers on June 24 to 17 1/2 games back.

Chicago also traded away championship core players Kris Bryant, Javier Báez and Anthony Rizzo as well as star closer Craig Kimbrel before the July 30 deadline. Bryant, Báez and Rizzo had expiring contracts.

"Right now, obviously, we're playing short-handed," Hoyer said. "I think that's very clear. We're not planning on playing short-handed going forward. We were in fourth place at the deadline. Obviously, at that point we weren't at the level we needed to be. We made decisions for the future. For the next couple months, we're gonna have to play short-handed and give a lot of opportunities." □

Baltimore Orioles slugger Chris Davis announces retirement

BALTIMORE (AP) — Slugger Chris Davis announced his retirement Thursday, ending a career in which he became one of baseball's most prodigious home run hitters before his production declined amid injury problems during his final seasons with the Baltimore Orioles.

Davis, 35, was going to miss the entire 2021 season after surgery in May to repair the labrum in his left hip.

"After an extended time dealing with my injury and recent hip surgery, I informed the Orioles about my decision to retire effective today," Davis said in a statement released by the team. "I want to thank the Orioles partnership group,

led by the Angelos family, the Orioles organization, my teammates and coaches."

Next year was the final season of Davis' \$161 million, seven-year contract.

Davis led the majors with 53 home runs in 2013 and 47 in 2015. He finishes his career with 295 in 13 seasons with the Orioles and Texas Rangers.

A powerful left-handed hitter at 6-foot-4, Davis was a crucial part of Baltimore's best run since the 1990s. He helped the Orioles reach the postseason in 2012, 2014 and 2016, although he did not play in the playoffs in 2014, when the team made it to the AL Championship Series.

Davis was suspended 25 games late in that 2014 season for testing positive for Adderall, a banned amphetamine. He later said he had been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder previously and been given a therapeutic use exemption for Adderall, but he did not have the exemption in 2014.

Davis' free-swinging ways could lead to high home run and strikeout totals and low batting averages. He hit .196 with 26 homers in 2014 and .221 with 38 homers and a major league-leading 219 strikeouts in 2016 — the first year of his big contract.

After that, his numbers sank



Baltimore Orioles' Chris Davis follows through on a two-run home run against the Chicago White Sox in the third inning of a baseball game in Baltimore, in this Tuesday, April 23, 2019, file photo. Associated Press

quickly, along with the team's fortunes. He hit .168 in 2018 and went through an 0-for-54 streak in 2019.

Davis hit just .115 over 55 at-bats last year and twice went on the injured list with knee problems. □

Canada's Auger-Aliassime, Shapovalov ousted in Toronto

TORONTO (AP) — Wimbledon quarterfinalist Felix Auger-Aliassime and countryman Denis Shapovalov were ousted from the National Bank Open in their native Canada on Wednesday.

Auger-Aliassime lost his first match, falling 7-5, 6-4 to Dusan Lajovic. Shapovalov dropped a 6-1, 6-4 decision to American Frances Tiafoe.

Auger-Aliassime, who's from Montreal, was the ninth seed in the tournament and had a bye into the second round. He was coming off an opening-round loss at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I just played a lot of tennis, even though I didn't win a lot of matches at the Olympics or the last week," Auger-Aliassime said. "There's a lot of traveling, a lot of practices, a lot of balls hit and maybe that's taken a bit of a toll on me, too. I don't know."



Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime looks on during his match against Serbia's Dusan Lajovic at the men's National Bank Open tennis tournament in Toronto, Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

Shapovalov came into the tournament as the No. 5 seed with a bye through the first round. "Obviously it's not an ideal performance, so I'm definitely not too happy," Shapovalov said after his second round loss. "(Tiafoe) has a lot of matches under his belt under these conditions and he was the better player today. It was obvious," said

Shapovalov, the world No. 10. "I just didn't feel comfortable ever in the match and you could see he was comfortable. ... It's always tough to go up against guys like this."

Tiafoe will face France's Gael Monfils in the third round on Thursday after the tournament's No. 11 seed beat John Millman of Australia 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

No. 4 seed Andrey Rublev of Russia, seventh-seeded Hubert Hurkacz of Poland, No. 8 Diego Schwartzman of Argentina, 10th seed Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain and American John Isner also won their matches Wednesday to advance, as did Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia, who upset 12th-seeded Alex de Minaur of Australia.

In the women's event in Montreal, Canadian wild card Rebecca Marino continued her run by beating Paula Badosa 1-6, 7-5, 6-4. The 30-year-old Marino upset No. 16 seed Madison Keys in the first round.

Marino had a career-high ranking of No. 39 in 2011, but stepped away from the sport for nearly five years to battle depression. She's currently ranked 220th.

"Any time you can beat a girl who's in the top 100, top 50, it's something to feel good about, particularly as I'm building my rank-

ing back up," Marino said of beating Badosa, who is ranked 31st.

Marino will face Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the round of 16 on Thursday.

Sabalenka, the tournament's No. 1 seed, edged American wild card Sloane Stephens 7-6(4), 4-6, 6-4 on Wednesday.

Canadian Bianca Andreescu will also be back in action Thursday, facing either No. 13 seed Ons Jabeur of Tunisia or Russia's Daria Kasatkina in the round of 16.

No. 4 Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic, No. 11 Maria Sakkari of Greece and Coco Gauff, the 15th-seeded American, all won to advance on Wednesday, while Britain's Johanna Konta ousted third-seeded Ukrainian Elina Svitolina.

American Danielle Collins upset No. 6 Simona Halep of Romania, and Jessica Pegula of the U.S. got by 10th-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova. □

Pacquiao, Ugás unafraid to make title fight on short notice



Yordenis Ugás reacts after defeating Omar Figueroa Jr. by unanimous decision in a welterweight fight in Las Vegas, in this Saturday, July 20, 2019, file photo.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Manny Pacquiao could have postponed or canceled his boxing comeback when opponent Errol Spence Jr. dropped out less than two weeks before their Aug. 21 showdown.

Instead, the former eight-division champion quickly found some right-handed sparring partners and went right back to work preparing for a new opponent on very short notice.

"I'm not disappointed at all,

because my hard work in training is not wasted," Pacquiao said Wednesday.

Pacquiao (62-7-2, 39 KOs) didn't hesitate to replace Spence with Yordenis Ugás (26-4, 12 KOs), the Cuban WBA welterweight champion, just 11 days before the pay-per-view show at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. Spence has a retinal tear that requires surgery, but he didn't know about it until a prefight medical exam. Instead of preparing for

the left-handed Spence, Pacquiao and trainer Freddie Roach are now getting ready for Ugás' orthodox stance — but it's nothing the 42-year-old Filipino congressman hasn't seen before in his quarter-century as a professional boxer.

"The only adjustment I'm going to make for this fight is the southpaw versus right-handed," Pacquiao said. "That's the only thing, because Errol Spence is aggressive, and Ugás is also aggressive, so that's good. He can create more action in the ring, and the fans will love it."

Ugás was scheduled to make his first title defense against Fabian Maidana on the undercard in Las Vegas, but he got the call to replace Spence on the same day Maidana revealed he had a huge cut underneath his left eye, likely forcing him out of his fight with Ugás anyway.

"Once I found out I was fighting Pacquiao, I was excited, and then I just kept on training as if nothing was unusual," Ugás said through

an interpreter. "When I found out I was going to fight against one of the best fighters in history, that just heightened the excitement for me."

For the 35-year-old Ugás, the decision to switch opponents required much less careful consideration. After all, fighting Pacquiao is a career-defining opportunity for any fighter, let alone a late-career veteran who once took a two-year break from boxing and is still searching for recognition as a world-class welterweight despite his WBA belt. "This means the world to me," Ugás said. "I'm fighting not for the money, but for my legacy, for my country, for my own story that's going to be told. This is the most important fight of my life. ... I'm well aware that Pacquiao is the favorite, but at the same time, I'm a champion."

Ever since I came back five years ago, I've overcome so much. I've had fights stolen from me, I've beaten tough opponents, and even though I have a chal-

lenge, I have confidence in myself."

Pacquiao has been out of the ring for 25 months — the longest absence of his lengthy career — since he beat Keith Thurman by decision in 2019 to win one version of the WBA's 147-pound title.

The governing body abruptly took that version of the belt away from Pacquiao last January and handed it to Ugás, who had held a different version of the WBA title.

The WBA is notorious for its capricious and weird sanctioning decisions, but this one stoked Pacquiao's ire. The chance to reclaim the belt he lost to Ugás for "inactivity" was an appealing aspect of the switch.

"He took my belt, and we have to settle it inside the ring," Pacquiao said. "I would never take him lightly in this fight, because Ugás is the kind of fighter who can win. ... I don't care if he's the champion or I'm the champion. We'll finish this fight first, and then we'll see who is the titleholder." □